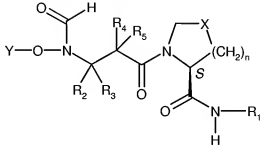
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

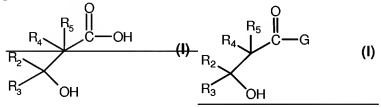
Claim 1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing a compound of the formula (VIII)



(VIII)

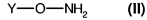
comprising step A:

contacting a compound of the formula (I)



(I) **(I)**

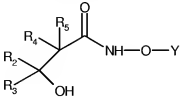
with a compound of the formula (II)



(II)

in the presence of a carboxy activating agent, in a suitable solvent

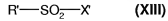
under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (III)



(III)

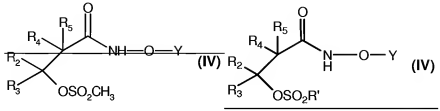
followed by step B:

contacting compound (III) with a compound of the formula (XIII)



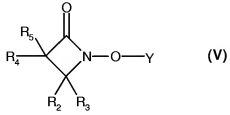
(XIII)

in the presence of a base in a suitable solvent, under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (IV)



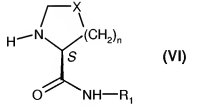
followed by Step C:

contacting compound (IV) with a base in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (V)

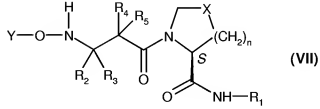


followed by Step D:

contacting compound (V) with a compound of the formula (VI)



in a suitable solvent optionally in the presence of an activator under conditions suitable to form a compound of the formula (VII)



followed by Step E:

contacting compound (VII) with a formylating agent in a suitable solvent under conditions suitable to form compound (VIII);

wherein

Y is a hydroxy protecting group;

Each of R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5, independently, is hydrogen or an aliphatic group~~, or (R_2 and R_3) and/or (R_4 and R_5) collectively form a C_{4-7}cycloalkyl~~;

X is $-CH_2-$~~, S , CH(OH) , CH(OR) , CH(SH) , CH(SR) , CF_2 , C=N(OR) or CH(F)~~ ; wherein

~~R is alkyl;~~

G is -OH or $-O^{\ominus}M^{\oplus}$, wherein M is a metal or an ammonium moiety;

R_1 is aryl or heteroaryl;

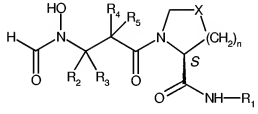
X' is halo;

R' is alkyl or aryl; and

n is 1~~ 0 to 3, provided that when n is 0, X is $-CH_2-$~~.

Claim 2. (Original) The process of Claim 1, followed by additional Step F which comprises contacting the compound of formula (VIII), wherein R_1 is heteroaryl having an *N* heteroatom, with an oxidizing agent to form the corresponding *N*-oxide derivative.

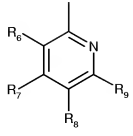
Claim 3. (Original) The process of Claim 1, followed by the additional step of removing the hydroxyl-protecting group by contacting compound (VIII) with a palladium catalyst to form the compound of formula (IX)



(IX)

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4,R_5, X and n are as defined above.

Claim 4. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein each of R_2, R_3 and R_5 is hydrogen; R_4 is butyl; X is $-CH_2-$; n is 1; Y is benzyl or *t*-butyldimethylsilyl; and R_1 is of the formula



wherein

R_6 and R_9 are hydrogen;

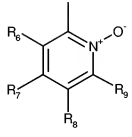
R_7 is hydrogen or C_{1-7}alkyl; and

R_8 is hydrogen, halogen or C_{1-7}alkyl.

Claim 5. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 4 [[2]], wherein R_7 is hydrogen; and R_8 is fluoro.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 4 [[2]], wherein R_7 is C_{1-7} alkyl; and R_8 is hydrogen.

Claim 7. (Original) The process of Claim 1, wherein R_1 is of the formula (XIa)



(XIa)

wherein

R_6, R_7 and R_9 are hydrogen; and

R_8 is halogen or C_{1-7}alkyl.

Claim 8. (Original) The process of Claim 7, wherein R_8 is fluoro.

Claim 9. (Original) The process of Claim 1, carried out at a temperature of about 0°C to about 80°C, a pH of about 2 to about 12, and in one or more solvents selected from the group consisting of dioxane, methylene chloride, dichloromethane, toluene, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, THF, isopropyl acetate, DMF and an alcohol.

Claims 10 – 37. (Cancelled)